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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 302
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 6230
INFO RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1879
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 7500

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SHUN, OVIP, PA

SUBJECT: (U) VISIT OF AMERICAS WATCH DELEGATION TO PARAGUAY

1. (U) THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM ARYEH NEIER, VICE CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAS WATCH, INFORMING HIM OF A VISIT TO PARAGUAY NEXT MONTH BY A DELEGATION SPONSORED BY THAT ORGANIZATION. THE GROUP WILL CONSIST OF CONGRESSMEN TONY HALL (D-OHIO), GARY ACKERMAN (D-NEW YORK) AND JAMES JEFFORDS (R-Vermont) PLUS ORVILLE SCHELL, CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAS WATCH, AND PATRICIA PITMAN, ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN BUENOS AIRES. THE GROUP WILL ARRIVE ASUNCION FROM SANTIAGO THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 AND DEPART THE AFTERNOON ON DECEMBER 14.

2. (U) THE TELEGRAM SOLICITS THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND OTHER OFFICIALS. EVEN THOUGH THE CONGRESSMEN APPEAR TO BE TRAVELING IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY, WE WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORGANIZING THE GROUP'S VISIT. (NORMALLY WE WOULD NOT DO SO FOR A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION OF THIS TYPE.) WE HAVE TALKED WITH MS. PITMAN AND SHE HAS CONFIRMED THAT NEITHER SHE NOR ANYONE ELSE IN THE ORGANIZATION PLANS TO MAKE ANY ARRANGEMENTS HERE.

3. (LOU) WE WILL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GROUP'S WISHES SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH THOSE GOV OFFICIALS NOTED ABOVE. WE ALSO THINK THE GROUP SHOULD MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE GROUP TO HAVE SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES, THE INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE, PARAGUAY'S MOST PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT MEDIA FIGURES, PLUS CERTAIN OTHER PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO ARE WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE. THE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO HOST A LUNCH FOR THE GROUP THE AFTERNOON OF THE 14TH.

4. (LOU) HOTEL RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE GROUP AT THE HOTEL CECILIA (TEL. 91-271/3). THE COST PER ROOM IS 10,000 GUARANIES PER NIGHT, WHICH INCLUDES BREAKFAST -- APPROXIMATELY \$25. THE EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE GROUP THROUGHOUT THEIR STAY. PLEASE ADVISE IF THE CONGRESSMEN ARE TO RECEIVE PER DIEM.

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5. (U) CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE VISIT WILL BE POLITICAL
OFFICER JOHN P. LOENARD.

6. (U) REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT PASS THE INFORMATION IN
PARAS 3 AND 4 TO THE AMERICAS WATCH GROUP AND ADVISE US
SOONEST ON THEIR REACTION TO THE SCHEDULING SUGGESTIONS.

7. (U) FOR BUENOS AIRES: PLEASE PASS THE SUBSTANCE OF
THIS MESSAGE TO MS. PITMAN.

DAVIS

END OF MESSAGE

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